

◆ The Lamoine Quarterly ◆

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Voters Select Fowler As Next Selectman

(Lamoine) — Planning Board chair Perry Fowler won election as Selectman and Overseer of the Poor in a two-way race decided March 2nd. Fowler, a resident of Walker Road, gathered 222 votes to Deputy Harbor Master Gerald Ford's 97. Town voting officials processed 324 ballots. Fowler took office on March 4th, the next Selectmen's meeting following the town meeting, and tendered his resignation from the Planning Board that evening.

The campaign was a spirited affair, and the annual candidates' night offered a lively discussion of town affairs, and helped to contrast the positions of the candidates. Both candidates mailed flyers promoting their candidacies in a positive manner. In a newspaper interview following his election, Fowler said he felt Ford would have served well as a Selectmen had he been elected.

Fowler replaces Thomas Spruce on the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Spruce served for one three year term, and said he might be willing to serve on one of the towns many boards. Fowler runs a contracting business with his family.

The other races for municipal officers were uneventful, as the School Committee and Board of Assessor races were unopposed.

Re-elected to the School Committee was Faith Perkins. She was finishing up her first term on the School Board. She is a physical therapist. Also elected as Linda Haft, who begins her first term on Lamoine's School Committee, and will continue to serve on the town's Planning Board. Mrs. Haft is the personnel director for First National Bank of Bar Harbor.

Jane Fowler (the new Selectman's mother), was easily re-elected to the Board of Assessors, and starts a 3rd straight term.



Ivan Andros keeps a close eye on Dad as he deposits his town meeting ballot in the box manned by Kay Bragdon

Town To Decide Board of Selectmen Size Referendum Vote June 8th

(Lamoine) - Selectmen Glenn Crawford presented the Board of Selectmen with a petition signed by 111 registered voters asking that the town hold a referendum to increase the size of the Board from three to five. The Board, with little discussion, voted unanimously to place the issue on the ballot to coincide with the primary election set for June 8th. All registered voters will be able to cast a ballot in the special town meeting vote on that date.

Press accounts indicate that those who signed the petition feel that a 5-member board could be more effective than the current three member board by offering other points of view on matters of town importance. Some note that the School Committee has five members.

Should the vote pass, another vote would be held in November to specify how to fill out the larger board. The Selectmen will likely proposed staggered terms of 1, 2 and 3 years be elected at the annual town meeting in March, and the larger board would take office following the next annual municipal election. Should the vote fail, the board size stays at 3.

Where is Lamoine Headed?

Planning Conference May 13th

(Lamoine) - Town officials and key community leaders are busy filling out a questionnaire in preparation for a planning conference on May 13th at the Lamoine School. The goal of the evening meeting is to devise a solid idea on where the town is headed and what it needs to get there.

Ron Beard of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service will facilitate the discussion. The questionnaires have started to flow back into the town office so that a report from the survey can be prepared ahead of time for presentation at the meeting. The results will act as the basis for discussion, and it's hoped that the outcome can help shape town budget policies, the direction for town infrastructure, and to see whether any change is needed for town government structure.

Selectman Chair Selected

(Lamoine) — Josephine “Jo” Cooper will serve her third year as chair of the Board of Selectmen. Cooper was selected unanimously by Perry Fowler and Glenn Crawford at the first meeting after the town meeting. She is serving her 2nd term on the board. The chair runs board meetings and makes a slightly higher salary.

Proposed Fire Truck Lights Political Blaze

(Lamoine) - A proposal to replace a 30-year old fire truck with a brand new custom built rescue truck/pumper combination has fueled a bitter political debate in town, and the issue might not have been resolved by a nearly unanimous open town meeting vote.

As Selectmen were preparing to sign the annual town meeting warrant on February 5th, Selectman Glenn Crawford presented the Board with a petition asking for a referendum vote on the same question that appeared on the warrant regarding purchase of a fire truck. The petition contained 107 signatures from registered voters, certified the next day by Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs. Selectmen Jo Cooper and Tom Spruce opted to sign the town meeting warrant as presented, offering the fire truck purchase to the open town meeting.

A check with a municipal law attorney at Maine Municipal Association found that it would be the option of the Selectmen to decide whether to also offer a vote to referendum at a later date. The petition was not received in time to place the matter on the referendum ballot for March 2nd, as such ballots have to be available to voters 45-days before the election.

At the next meeting, the Board vigorously discussed whether to place the item on the June 8th ballot along with increasing the size of the board (see above article). In a unanimous vote, the Board opted to offer it to referendum. Though it came up for reconsideration, the Board did not change its decision to place the matter before the voters

on June 8th. A public hearing will be held in May on the referendum question.

Meanwhile, the issue went before the open town meeting, and took the longest to dispose of, even though more than 90-percent of the voters present approved of the purchase. Maury Oliver, the Assistant Chief Engineer of the Fire Department, gave an impressive presentation that showed the purchase of a new truck would be far more cost effective than keeping the 1975 American LaFrance pumper and putting away money for a purchase 5-years down the road. Mr. Oliver said the town's insurance rating was at jeopardy by keeping the old truck, which could increase a typical property owner's house insurance by over \$100 per year, compared to a tax impact of about \$22 per year.

Fire Department member Bill Fennelly has circulated written materials advocating that the 30-year old truck be retained and repaired, and spoke briefly in favor at the town meeting.

The truck the department proposes to sell was purchased in 1999 from a fire department outside Chicago, and replaced a 1958 pumper as an interim measure to keep the pumping capacity intact for insurance underwriting purposes. The Fire Department has pledged to donate \$50,000 raised from suppers, auctions and their annual appeal letter to go toward the purchase of the \$200,000 truck. Another \$25,000 would come from the town's fire truck reserve fund, and any money from the sale of the 1975 truck would go into that fund. The remainder of the purchase would be funded through a 5-year loan approved by the voters.

Interest High For Planning Board Vacancy

(Lamoine) — With the resignation of Chairman Perry Fowler from the Planning Board following his election to the Board of Selectmen, the Board selected vice-chair Gordon Donaldson to lead them until July. Donaldson is the senior member of the board which has experienced an influx of new members in the past year.

Replacing Fowler on the Planning Board is current Board of Appeals Chairman Melody Havey. Ms. Havey is an Assistant Attorney General specializing in Child Support Enforcement. Though several others were interested in Planning Board service, all said they favored Ms. Havey's appointment because of her legal background. That opens a position on the Board of Appeals, likely to be filled by alternate Chris Tadema-Wielandt. At least one Alternate Appeals Board position, and possibly two will be filled by the Selectmen.

Lobster Pound Appeal Placed On Hold

(Lamoine) — While not much is happening in public, an appeal of a Site Plan Review Permit issued to the owners of the Seal Point Lobster Pound is still active, and the same appellants have also filed an appeal of a Shoreland Zoning Permit issued by the Planning Board.

Initially, the matter was to come to a hearing on February 26th, but the attorney for the appellants requested that it be postponed due to a family illness. The attorney for owners Anthony and Josette Pettegrow and Appeals Board Chair Melody Havey agreed to the request, but the three have not come up with a new date for the hearing. Ms. Havey reports the two attorneys are trying to agree to stipulations—undisputed facts about the case—that can be entered at the start of the hearing in order to allow the key points of the appeal to proceed efficiently. This would allow the Appeals Board to better focus on the

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points raised by the lobster pound neighbors. Because of the wording of the Site Plan Review Ordinance, all appeals have to proceed “de novo”, or just like the Appeals Board was hearing all the evidence for the first time. The Building and Land Use Ordinance allows for administrative appeals that focus on just one issue.

Meanwhile, the Shoreland Appeal was filed at the 30-day deadline by attorney Gary Hunt, representing neighbors of the lobster pound. The Planning Board issued the Shoreland Permit for a re-configured parking area after the Board of Appeals ruled last year that a previous permit was not properly issued and not supported by paper work from the Planning Board. The appellants claim that the Lobster Pound has turned into an industrial application and the buildings, driveway and parking area cover more ground than allowed under the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance. It's not clear when the hearing on the latest appeal will be scheduled.

Building Permits Quiet During First Quarter

(Lamoine) — Winter weather usually puts a damper on new construction permit activity, and 2004 was no exception. Code Enforcement Officer John Holdsworth reports the following permits were issued in the first three months of the year:

#	Name	Type
1	Wayne Wright	Residence
2	Paul Culler	Residence

3	Rick Miller	Deck
4	Stephen Gardner	Addition*
5	Dennis Ford	Cottage
*Issued after the fact by CEO after notice of violation issued.		

During 2003, the CEO issued 81 Construction permits, including 28 for residences. Please consult the town office for permit information before beginning any construction project

Shssh...Planning Board Agenda Quiet

(Lamoine) — The Planning Board had a chance in March to do something it's been unable to do for a while—Plan! The agenda included only one request, and that was handled quickly as an extension of a building permit. The board also discussed a proposal from resident David Ashmore to set up a mobile lunch cart on his property near

Town Meeting Rejects Proposed Land Gift

(Lamoine) — After an outcry from nearby property owners, voters at the annual town meeting turned down an offer from a West Virginia woman who wanted to donate a piece of shore property to the town. The land, at the corner of Meadow Point, Bay and Cove Roads is located in a flood zone and is apparently unable to support a residential structure. The owner apparently had not succeeded in selling the property, and her attorney wrote to the Selectmen in January asking whether the town wished to accept it.

Voters overwhelmingly turned down the offer. Nearby land owners were concerned that because the town would own the lot, their private road would be open to the general public. Others felt that the owner might gain some sort of tax advantage by donating the property that would not be gained if she didn't pay the property taxes and the town took it by automatic foreclosure.

At the town meeting, Selectmen stressed that there was absolutely no plan to utilize the land in any way.

Ordinance Changes Go Under for 3rd Time

(Lamoine) — A proposal to include a section of noise regulation lifted from the Gravel Extraction Ordinance sank proposed changes to the Building and Land Use Ordinance at the annual town meeting. Voters argued the wording would prevent businesses from operating on Sundays, though Planning Board members maintained that was not the intent.

The rejection was the 3rd for sweeping changes to the Building and Land Use Ordinance in the past year. In March 2003, voters rejected changes that included an Aquifer Protection Zone. In November of '03 similar arguments came about the noise section, though many said the way it was worded would prevent them from mowing lawns on Sundays. An additional problem came from a proposed change in zoning and lack of public notification about that change.

The latest version did not significantly

change zoning, and the noise section was re-worded to affect only commercial and industrial operations. At a public hearing on the proposed changes before the town meeting, no one raised the noise issue.

Another issue that arose at town meeting was a conflict in the way the ordinance meshes with the Floodplain Ordinance.

In the end, the measure was defeated by 4-votes at the open town meeting.

The Planning Board will discuss changes again in April. The Board has also approached the Selectmen about increasing the fees for subdivisions in order to more fully fund time for the Code Enforcement Officer. The Board is reviewing the CEO's job description and may recommend some changes to the Selectmen to require more input from the CEO on applications to the Board.

Lamoine State Park, and whether that would be allowed.

The lack of "business" for the board has allowed it time to take a look at ordinances. More work will go into proposed changes to the Building and Land Use Ordinance (see article to the left), and the possibility of presenting a Parks Ordinance to the town for consideration at the special town meeting referendum in June. The Board will discuss both matters at its April meeting.

Other matters decided by the Planning Board this past quarter included approval of four gravel pit renewals by Doug Gott & Sons, Inc., and finalizing issuance of the Shoreland Zoning permit for the owners of the Seal Point Lobster Pound (under appeal, see above article).

Park Ordinance Unveiled

(Lamoine) — Lamoine's Conservation Commission has drafted a proposed ordinance regulating activities at the town's two parks (Lamoine Beach and Bloomfield Park), and sent it to the Planning Board. The proposed ordinance would re-establish a 5-member parks commission. Town meeting did away with the Parks Commission many years ago. At one time the parks commissioners were elected officials.

The new ordinance would empower the commission to suggest rules and hours of operation to the Selectmen, and to issue permits for gatherings greater than 25-people to use the park. It's a 2-page document that will receive review in April.

Selectmen Stick With Known Quantity for Snow Plowing

(Lamoine) — Do you go with the best price, or go with good assurance that for a 11% more you'll continue to receive superior service? That was the dilemma facing Selectmen as they awarded the snow plowing contract for the next three years to Nankervis Trucking of Franklin.

The Nankervis crew has plowed Lamoine's roads for the past three years, and the town received very few complaints about their work. But their bid of \$90,000 a year was \$9,000 a year more than a company called Backside Plowing from Southwest Harbor. A check of Backside's references found good satisfaction with their work, but as Selectman

Glenn Crawford put it, they didn't have any municipal experience. Owner George Seavey said they were attracted to the Lamoine bid in order to consolidate their operation. He also said he would not bid on future contracts because of the town's reluctance to choose his firm.

The Nankervis bid is to continue with the same salt/sand mixture as in the past. A first round of bids using straight salt proved to be significantly more expensive than continuing with the present program. The State DOT uses a salt program on Route 184, but has specially rigged trucks to lay it down.



Nankervis Trucking of Franklin will continue to plow Lamoine's roads for the next three years. Selectmen chose to stay with the company, despite getting a lower bid.

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Cable TV Channel Closer to Reality



Adelphia technician Gene Kimball rigs up the fiber optics connection that will soon allow the town office to broadcast on Cable Channel 7

(Lamoine) — Most of the programming will be on an excitement level just below that of C-SPAN, but sometime this spring, Lamoine should have at least one of its cable TV channels in operation. Technicians from Adelphia have hooked up the fiber optic lines at the Town Hall and the School to prepare for broadcasting. The final pieces of equipment to actually transmit pictures and sound have yet to be installed.

Initially, the town hall programming will consist of a "slide show" using a computer program which will give information about the town and upcoming meeting schedules. Eventually it's hoped enough volunteers will form a committee to broadcast meetings live.

Recycling Rate Jumps to 52%!

(Lamoine) — The recycling report filed by the town this year indicates a 52% recycling rate—a huge jump from previous years. So what went right? Unfortunately it had nothing to do with the transfer station's recycling program, but the increase can be directly attributed to a woods cutting operation that sent all of its material to a bio-mass operation. Unless a similar operation reports next year, the recycling rate will likely fall back down to the 26% area.

During 2003, Lamoine sent 732-tons of household waste to the PERC incinerator in Orrington.

Roads Posted

(Lamoine) — Forget the robins or the crocus—the first sign of spring reads “Heavy Loads Limited”. The MDOT posted some state roads on March 1st, but the newly rebuilt sections of Routes 204 and 184 can now withstand the heavy truck traffic, and were kept open. The open state roads no longer isolate all the local roads, so the Selectmen authorized the Road Commissioner to post Shore Road, Asa's Lane, Mill Road and Buttermilk Road to heavy truck traffic. The posting will stay up until the road beds thaw enough to avoid heavy truck damage.

Bangor Hydro has requested permission to install new service on posted roads. The request is under consideration by the Selectmen.

Cold Leads to Clogged Culverts

(Lamoine) — J.R. Anderson has been one busy guy this winter—and not just in Lamoine. Anderson, of Franklin, runs a pressure washing company, and is the area specialist when it comes to thawing frozen road culverts. The combination of a very wet fall, very little snow in the winter months, and a bitter cold snap in January was perfect for making ice dams in the road culverts.

The most noticeable problem came on Route 204 (Partridge Cove Road) by Needles Eye Road. The Maine DOT has to fix that problem, and by the time they got to it, the road was badly rutted and quite dangerous to drive on at anything but low speed. Local Road culvert freezings were scattered town wide.



The culvert under Sugarbush Drive was one of many to freeze, causing minor flooding problems this winter

Computer Donated

(Lamoine) — Planning Board member, firefighter, and resident computer guru Brett Jones donated a computer to the town hall. The new computer was installed in the copier room and will eventually be used to broadcast the slide show for the cable TV channel.

The new computer has already been put into service. It ran the slide show during this year's town meeting.

Web Site Improved

(Lamoine) — Lamoine's new web site (www.lamoine-me.gov) has received a lot of nice comments since it got up and running last fall. If you want to find out what's going on in town government from the official source, this has become the stop. You can even read this edition of the Lamoine Quarterly on line!

The postings of minutes are up to date following board approval. The monthly calendar features the ability to click on the meeting schedule and display the agenda if it's been set. Each town board has its own index, and the personnel listings are right up to date. We've set up a few pages for the school and the sports teams. On top of that, the site looks pretty cool too!

There had been some complaints that the search engines, such as google.com, were not displaying the proper address. That problem has apparently taken care of itself, as a recent search by typing in “Lamoine” resulted in the first two listings that lead directly to the web site (though one leads to the old home page, but that kicks you to the new home page).

Tax Cap Impact Could Be Severe

(Lamoine) — Maine voters will decide in either November or June whether to impose a 1% property tax cap on all municipalities. Towns and cities are crunching the numbers to determine what the impact will be should the measure pass. Part of the question would roll back valuations to 1997 valuations, and that's where the calculation gets difficult. Land that sold after 1997 would be valued at the sale price. Construction completed after 1997 would be valued at the market price. The Maine Constitution requires that assessments all be at fair market value, and the citizens initiative appears to violate that provision.

The impact in Lamoine could be devastating. The current tax rate of 14 mills (1.4% of valuation) would have to drop 28.6% to the 10-mill cap. The valuation base would not be too drastically affected, as there have been a lot of sales and construction in the last 8-years. The best guesstimate is that the town would have to trim spending by about \$650,000, or by 24% to keep the budget balanced. Many of the town's costs are fixed, including high school tuition, special education, contracts for waste removal, snow plowing and the like. Neither the school committee nor the budget committee have tackled where that much in spending cuts could come from. There has been no indication the state would increase aid to municipalities to make up for the lost property tax revenue. It's expected the Maine Municipal Association will launch a campaign

Selectmen Extend Contract, Ponder Right-Of-Way Change

(Lamoine) — Sometimes you just can't dig fast enough. A contract that initially expired in June for Doug Gott & Sons to purchase gravel from behind the former Lamoine landfill has been extended for a year by the Board of Selectmen. This will give the company time to complete the extraction of the approved amount of gravel, and to restore the dug area according to specifications. The town will not realize any additional revenue from the extension, as the sale was for a specific amount of gravel and charged by the yard.

The Board also took under consideration a change in the Right-of-Way over the old dump road. Gott wishes to abandon use of that road in exchange for a Right-of-Way over town land behind the landfill. It's likely town meeting would have to approve the deal, and more details will be forthcoming.

Meanwhile, Gott has agreed to fix and pave the apron leading into the transfer station this summer. Heavy truck traffic, especially in mud season causes huge potholes to appear. The company has always been willing to quickly scrape down the area, but pavement should help avoid the problem in the future.

Tax Acquired Land Sold

Complaint Filed Against Town Workers

(Lamoine) — Selectmen dealt with a complaint from resident William Fennelly against the Transfer Station Manager and the Administrative Assistant. Mr. Fennelly said the transfer station was not adequately shoveled, and the manager was smoking inside his office. He said he was barred from making a complaint about improperly disposed of trash when the Administrative Assistant threw him out of the town office.

Selectmen investigated the complaints, and reminded the Transfer Station Manager about the smoking policy. A letter will go to the trash generator warning him to properly dispose of building debris. The Board found the complaints against the Administrative Assistant to be unfounded. The board found that Mr. Fennelly was asked to leave the office when he used inappropriate language. A witness corroborated the account. Mr. Fennelly was also asked to leave the Selectmen's meeting by Board Chair Jo Cooper after making a threat.

New Fee Schedule Approved

(Lamoine) — Selectmen approved a new fee schedule for various services at the town office. Not much changed, but the fee schedule includes new areas of technology, including e-

against the proposed cap.

Motor Vehicles Watch Lifted

(Lamoine) - The Bureau of Motor Vehicles has lifted a monitor watch on the town office following the change in registration agents last fall. Routinely the BMV will monitor a town's work when an agent changes.

The monitoring proved very helpful for staff training, as the BMV sent copies of mistakes the office made on several registrations. Most of the mistakes were very minor and involved the effective date of registrations. Of the over 600 car transactions over a 3-month period, only 25 contained errors, for a little better than a 95% success rate. The staff said it would use the monitoring to improve the accuracy of all transactions.

Moorings Due

(Lamoine) — Permits to renew mooring licenses at Lamoine State Park expire in Mid May, and reminders to renew went to all mooring holders in March. The cost to renew is \$15.00.

A waiting list is posted at the town office for residents and non-residents interested in obtaining a mooring slot. The town only regulates moorings within the State Park boundary. Moorings outside the park boundary are not regulated by the town, but do fall under Department of Marine Resources jurisdiction.

(Lamoine) — The owners of a half interest in a piece of land that became tax acquired by the town in December have purchased the town's half interest for the back taxes, fees and interest. Eugene and Doris DesIsles paid \$800.00 for the land and now have full control of the property. The heirs of a distant relative declined to pay the 2001/02 property taxes and allowed their half interest to automatically foreclose to the town.

Because of the unique nature of the ownership, after the Board of Selectmen offered the property back to the former owner (and they declined), the offer was extended to the DesIsles family. They declined an offer to buy the half interest for half the assessed value, and the Selectmen agreed to sell it for the back taxes and fees in early March. The property will be back on the tax rolls for 2004.

Recycling Contract Extended

(Lamoine) — Selectmen opted to extend by a little more than two years the recycling transportation contract with Pine Tree Waste. The current contract expired in March, and the expiration snuck up on both the company and the town. The Selectmen agreed to a price increase requested by Pine Tree to extend the contract. Even with the increased costs to haul recycling to Bangor, the contract should just about squeeze in under budget for 2004/05. Increased revenues from the sale of recyclable newsprint, plastics, cans and glass help to offset the contract. The new contract will expire at the same time the trash hauling contract runs out in 2006.

mail and lamination. Large files such as voter lists and tax records that are very costly and time consuming to print are available for free via e-mail requests. Lamination services are limited in nature, as it takes a long time for the laminator machine to warm up. The cost will depend on the size.

Regional Meeting Yields Call For Volunteers

(Ellsworth) — A meeting with the Hancock County Commissioners in March showed area communities are skeptical at best about regionalizing services. Selectmen Perry Fowler and Jo Cooper attended the meeting along with Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon. Representatives from Mt. Desert, Franklin and Bar Harbor were very vocal in their opposition to exploring ways to regionalize and try to save money.

The Commissioners did agree to form a committee to look at where the County's tax dollars are spent. A Selectman from Mt. Desert expressed serious concern that his town received virtually no services for hundreds of thousands of dollars in county tax payments.

The Commissioners sent out a flyer to all communities looking for volunteers to serve on the committee. Anyone interest from Lamoine must be an appointed municipal official, and should contact the Board of Selectmen for consideration to serve on the panel. A meeting schedule for the new committee has yet to be formulated.

Search Committee Gathers Land Info

By Ken Smith

The Public Works Study Committee has continued its search for a parcel of land in Lamoine that would be suitable for the location of a public works complex and a school. Although the committee has determined that implementation of a public works department is not economically viable at this time, conditions could change in the future that would make it viable. The Lamoine Consolidated School also is facing some major issues and may need to be replaced to serve either Lamoine students only or students from multiple communities.

The committee expanded the scope of its 2002 search by using a questionnaire to solicit possible interest from owners of 20 acres or more that appeared to meet the search criteria. The questionnaire was sent to the owners of 64 potentially acceptable parcels. Ten owners indicated a possible interest in selling all or a portion of their land to the town within five years. These sites were field

evaluated to identify the top three. The best of these is located behind the existing school ballfield, but is separated from the ballfield by another narrow parcel. The owners of the narrow parcel have indicated that they would consider selling part of it to the town to facilitate access to the 20 acre parcel under consideration. The owners of another parcel adjacent to the ballfield also have indicated a possible interest in selling a piece of their land that would enhance the usefulness of the other parcels or even the existing school parcel.

All three parcels are presently being appraised to facilitate negotiations with the landowners. If the negotiated prices are acceptable to the selectmen, then the town would enter into appropriate purchase and sale agreements contingent upon acceptable soils testing for subsurface wastewater disposal and a favorable town referendum vote. If either of these contingencies is not met, then the selectmen may request that the committee pursue another site.

School May Become Disaster Shelter

(Lamoine) — Disasters are rare in Lamoine, but they happen. The 1998 ice storm qualifies. Some people left without power who needed heat and water used disaster facilities in Ellsworth for shelter, as no official shelter exists in Lamoine. The American Red Cross surveyed the Lamoine School this winter as a sheltering option. The school has everything for essential needs, and has a generator hookup

installed by the fire department. The gym can feed and house a lot of people if needed. The Red Cross should finalize its assessment soon, and may provide shelter operations training to interested local personnel. The designation should not cost any tax dollars.



Principal Val Perkins shows off the Lamoine School kitchen facilities to Rob Geiser of the American Red Cross of Eastern Maine. The Red Cross is evaluating the school for use as a disaster shelter if needed.

Quiet Start to '04 for Fire Department

(Lamoine) — Just one actual fire to put out for the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department. Eight calls for help came in since January 1st, the most serious being a chimney fire at a Seal Point Road residence. A quick response save the home from major damage.

The quickest response came town meeting night when one of the firefighters noticed smoke coming from the back of a pickup truck. The meeting room quickly emptied of firefighters who prevented the fire from damaging the truck.

The fire department responded to two homes filling with smoke in the early morning hours in January. Both incidents were caused by oil furnaces and the occupants called qualified service personnel after firefighters cleared the smoke.

The rescue boat was called to Gouldsboro in case a fishing boat trapped in the ice needed evacuation (it didn't). Personnel assisted at an accident in Trenton.

Aging Oil Tank At Fire House to be Replaced

(Lamoine) — Hoping the head off a potential disaster, Fire Chief George “Skip” Smith has informed the Board of Selectmen he is seeking prices to replace the heating fuel tank at the fire station. The current tank was installed when the station was constructed in 1990, and rust has started to show on the underneath of the tank.

The fire department sought bids from local plumbing and heating contractors. The lowest estimate for repair came from Hancock Oil for just over \$800. The tank should be replaced by mid-April.

Welcome New Fire Dept. Members

(Lamoine) — The average age of Lamoine’s Fire Department got a little younger in recent months. Welcome to new members Nate Jordan, Jennifer Reynolds and Russell Candage. Nate and Jennifer are children of firefighters and they’ve just turned 18. Rusty comes to Lamoine fully trained from the Sedgwick Fire Department. He and his wife and child live on Fennellyville Road.

Emergency Number: 9-1-1

Police, Fire, & Ambulance

Town Nominates Three State Roads For Repair

(Lamoine) — Shore Road resident Carlton Johnson put it succinctly the other day: “I’ve traveled a lot of roads in Maine this past week, and that section of Route 184 from Route 1 to the Town Hall has to be the worst”. The Board of Selectmen agreed, and has asked the Maine Department of Transportation to place it on the list of roads to consider reconstructing in the next two years. Riddled with frost heaves, depressions, wheel ruts and crumbling pavement, the road offers a bone jarring ride in the spring of the year. It doesn’t get much better after the frost gets out of the ground in the summer.

The section was not alone on the

nomination list. The section of Route 184 from Latona Lane to Lamoine Beach was also placed in nomination. It’s frost heaves rival the North Lamoine section. The Selectmen also nominated a short section of Route 204 along Partridge Cove Road as needing repair. That section perennially floods and freezes over due to clogged culverts in the winter creating unsafe surface conditions. The MDOT paved that entire section of Route 204 last summer.

The MDOT has obtained permits from the Maine Department of Environmental protection to replace guardrails and culverts on Route 184 near Latona Lane and on Route 204 across Archer’s Brook.

It’s No Go For Police Patrol

(Lamoine) — With little debate other than warnings that the town would take on too much of a liability, voters at the annual town meeting rejected further exploration of a volunteer police patrol. A committee had recommended the exploration after several meetings with officials from the Hancock Volunteer Patrol showed that it served as a good crime deterrent. Though a few people expressed interest in serving on a volunteer patrol, they did not speak in favor of the town sponsoring. Lamoine will continue to receive route police services from the Sheriff’s Department and the Maine State Police.



She Fetched Up Hard!

That’s how the snowplow truck driver described it to his supervisor after the snowfall of March 21st on Seal Point Road. The blade plowed up pavement for about 250 feet in two sections.

Walk For Habitat April 10th

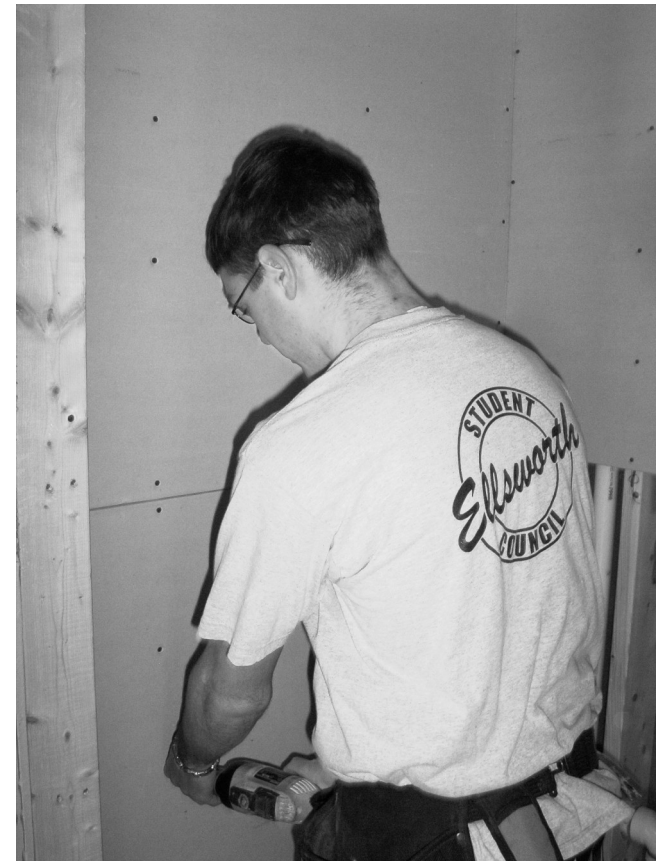
(Lamoine) - A lot of bright yellow signs will grace Lamoine on Saturday, April 10th, as walkers raise money for Hancock County Habitat for Humanity. The fund raising event walking route starts at St. Andrew's Church on Route 184, follows that road to Shore Road, making the loop, then following Route 184 back to the church. Participants will seek pledges to raise money to continue Habitat's local house-building efforts. Several "way stations" will provide food, drinks, bathrooms and resting spots along the 14 mile route. Participants can also stop to visit the Lamoine Habitat House currently under construction. For more information, call Carolyn Ackerman at 667-8124 or Linda Beauvais at 667-7989 to walk or make a pledge. Motorists are asked to be especially careful to watch out for pedestrians and to say hello.

Habitat House Nears Completion

(Lamoine) — Cheryl, Mackenzie and Ben Curtis will be moving soon, and every day they see their new home a little closer to reality. The Curtis family's house is a true community effort through Habitat for Humanity.

Terry Towne of Habitat for Humanity says the home was 75% to 80% complete by late March, and the Curtis' should be able to move in by June 1st at the latest. Towne gave a great amount of credit to the Hancock County Technical Center staff and students who've completed a lot of the interior work at the house. He estimated at least 750-hours of volunteer labor has gone into the project. The Curtis family has also invested a great deal of time and effort into putting their new home together. Power, plumbing and heating will be installed in early April.

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Making Progress

Ellsworth Tech Center student Richard McMullen of Lamoine screws on drywall at the interior of the Habitat for Humanity House.

Eagle Scouts Soar, Benefit Community

(Lamoine) — Lamoine has yet another Eagle Scout in its midst, and possibly another on his way. Josh Jones of Mill Road received Boy Scouting's highest honor in January. His project was to make improvements to Lamoine State Park. Josh is the son of Doug and Nancy Jones.

Paul Mitchell of Asa's Lane has completed his Eagle Scout project. He made a map case for Lamoine's Conservation Commission. He's the son of Becky &



2004 Tax Rate Should Remain Stable

(Lamoine) — Despite spending increases approved at town meeting, the tax rate for 2004/05 should remain around 14-mills. A couple of things contribute to stable tax rate.

Carlton Mitchell. No date has yet been set for his Eagle ceremony.

Burn Permits Required

(Lamoine) — The columns of smoke rise on the weekends in many parts of Lamoine as residents get rid of brush piles and dead grass and leaves for the coming summer. Doing so without a permit from the local fire warden, though, could put one before a judge to pay a fine. All open burning (with the exception of grills and outdoor fireplaces) requires a permit.

In Lamoine, permits are available from Fire Chief Skip Smith (667-2532), Captain Jim Hunnewell (667-2233), or Asst. Chief Stu Marckoon at the Town Office (667-2242). You will be required to have an appropriate level of people to monitor the fire, equipment to control the flames, and burning during the spring and summer is generally limited to after 5PM on weekdays. If the weather conditions are windy, permits are not issued, and if conditions are very dry, the fire chief can order that no permits be issued.

The fire department can sometimes assist homeowners with burning large brush piles and fields. Such efforts usually result in a donation to the fire company organization. Because of limited time and manpower availability, the department can't always fulfill all burning requests right away. Contact the Town Hall for more information.

Protecting the Maps

Lamoine's Conservation Commission accepts a map holder made by Eagle Scout candidate Paul Mitchell.

Open House At Fire Station May 22nd.

(Lamoine) — The members of the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department will host an open house on Saturday, May 22nd from 11AM to 3PM. Tours of the fire station and the apparatus will be available. Firefighters will cook up hot dogs and serve refreshments, and be glad to answer questions about the fire station, the equipment, the department and fire safety issues, and provide information regarding the proposed new fire truck.



Good Training

Members of the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department burn a shed and debris pile at the Fitzgerald home on Route 204

The biggest factor should be new construction and valuation. The construction boom is still under way, and the Board of Assessors should be able to find a significant increase in taxable value as of April 1st. The initial projection on the tax rate used the same average rate of valuation increase as in previous years (around 3% or 3.2 million dollars). Town meeting voters also agreed to use \$75,000 from the town's surplus account to offset property taxes.

Vital Statistics

(Lamoine) - We welcome **Oliver James Brown Patricio** of Shore Road, born December 19, 2003 in Ellsworth. March was a busy month for the stork. **Catherine Suzanne Kelley** of Old Schoolhouse Lane was born at Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor. **Liam Bird Stephenson** of Woodcock Lane, born on March 14th in Ellsworth. **Logan Paul Willard** of Douglas Highway arrived the same day, in the same hospital.

We lost a pair of Lamoiners in the last quarter. **Joseph Lear**, the town's resident historian and cemetery expert, died following an illness on January 21st. This year's town report was dedicated to Joe and his many contributions to Lamoine. We also received word from New York that **Walter Litten** passed away this winter. He lived most of his life on his seashore farm on Dean Lane and was a college professor and farmer.

One marriage in the quarter, and it came on Valentine's Day. **Michael Damon and Ronda Reed** were married in Tremont. The couple makes their home on Mill Road.

Winter Sports Teams Post Banner Seasons

(Lamoine) — There is little doubt that Lamoine Consolidated School coaches like to win, and they know what it takes to create winning kids—parental support. Basketball coach Michelle Morse and Cheering Coach Cori-Lynn Noddin were both quick to credit parents and team support for victorious seasons.

The Boys basketball team won the Union 92 championship, defeating Surry by 14 points. Surry was the only team to beat



Union 92 Champs

From left (front) Zach Emeigh, Alex Emeigh, Odane Gaynor, Willie Dickey, Nick Pappas (back) Tyler Crawford, Coach Morse, John Cooper, Darrell Beauvais, Wyatt Damon, Nathan Kuneman

Lamoine during the season.

The real surprise though was the girls' basketball team. Only one 8th grader had any basketball experience coming into the season, and for a while there was doubt if there might



State & Union Champs (4 years running)

Team members include Sarah Marckoon, Heather Young, Katie Bowman, Jina Haslam, Katie Murphy, Jennifer Tupper, Gabrielle Huebner, Mackenzie Curtis, Taylor Jones, Sean Keady, Brooke Mouland, Christia Alley, Rebecca Marckoon, Lauren White, Becky Wakefield, Heather Tupper, Kayla Herbert and Linnea Rogers

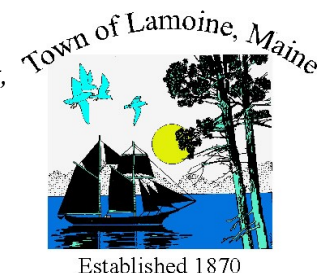


Union 92 Runners Up

From left (front) Emily Crotteau, Alicia Lofton, Lily Cooper, Emily Baranello (back) Rebecca Anderson, Casey Wyman, Sarah Day, Ami Clark

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Town Stationery Gets New Look



(Lamoine) — Selectmen approved design of a new letterhead layout this winter. The picture was drawn by Whit Vye in 1994 for the town's 125th Anniversary Celebration. The new layout was done on the town office computers. The new design looks very sharp in full color, but to save costs the letterhead was printed with just blue lettering

Town Reports Still Available

(Lamoine) — A limited number of Lamoine's annual report is still on hand for the public at the Town Office. The town printed 525 copies of the 90 page report this year, and distributed a letter to each mailbox announcing their availability a couple of weeks before town meeting.

The report is also posted on-line at www.lamoine-me.gov in a user friendly format. The Copy Center in Augusta printed this year's town report.

be enough girls to field a team. But the team played tough defense and grew throughout the season and had a much more experienced Hancock team down for the first three quarters of the championship game, before the Hornets beat the Lions 27 to 25. Lamoine finished off the year with an 8-5 record.

Cheering Squad

The Cheerleading team has put Lamoine on the map as the envy of schools

small and large throughout the state. With 17 girls and one boy, Lamoine easily jumped, tumbled and yelled to the championship of Union 92, despite one of the captains watching from the stands with a severely sprained ankle. Many team members took tumbling classes during the season from Julie Brown, and cheer mom Jan Huebner worked on conditioning with the squad members. The hard work paid off, but not without some stumbles along the way.

Coach Noddin organized a competition for schools from Hancock and Washington Counties at Ellsworth High School in February, and some slips put Lamoine into 2nd place behind a very talented squad from Dedham.

The state Jr. High Championships were next at Bangor Auditorium, and the team hit its

Conservation Commission Offers Bins

The Conservation Commission is excited about the opportunity to make composting "Earth Machines" available to Lamoiners at discount prices. The plan is to offer these backyard compost bins for purchase this spring for about \$35 each if we order them in bulk, in lots of 20. Bar Harbor has had excellent success with similar bins, the Green Cone, which sold there for \$40 each. If the bins are placed in a sunny spot they will perk all winter. In addition to providing rich nutrients for the garden, keeping organic waste out of our trash can save the Town considerable money. The average household produces 300-500 lbs of organic waste each year. Every five Lamoine households that compost could save the Town about \$50 each year. If you are interested in purchasing an Earth Machine, call Town Office to leave your name and phone number. Someone from the Conservation Commission will call you. Orders may be taken through the first week of May.

Coaling Station Display Created

(Lamoine) — Bob Alvarez loves old ships, and has a special fascination with those that utilized the US Navy Coaling Station in the early 1900's. With an extensive collection of pictures obtained over many years and from various sources, Alvarez has put together a framed display for the town hall. A short history of the coaling station will go into the frame, along with a brief history of the USS Massachusetts, one of the North Atlantic fleet ships that refueled at the station. The frame will hang at the town hall, and Alvarez invites anyone with other items from the station to add to the collection.

prime. Competing in the mixed division with nearly a dozen teams from all over the state, Lamoine performed a nearly flawless routine and won that category. Only three other teams scored higher in the overall competition. All the schools were from much larger communities. The state title is the 4th straight for the Lions and Coach Noddin who's already looking forward to next season.

Historical Society News

(Lamoine) - The Lamoine Historical Society has made excellent progress this winter cataloging the archival documents in its collection. The Society meets for work sessions the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month from 9AM to 11AM. People interested in becoming a member or volunteering to assist with the Society in cataloging should call Brooke Childrey at 667-6919.

Summer plans for the society include continuing cataloging, painting the front of East Lamoine Meeting House, and presenting programs for the general public.



Coaling Station On Display

Seal Point Road resident Bob Alvarez has put together a display of the US Navy Coaling Station in Lamoine in the early 1900's. It will hang at the Town Hall

April 2004– Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1-7PM Selectmen 7PM Fire Dept.	2	3
4	5-7PM School Board	6-6:30 PM Building Cmte 7PM Planning Board	7-7PM Assessors	8-7PM Public Works 7PM Fire Dept.	9	10-10AM Habitat for Humanity Walk
11	12-10AM Postal Workers	13	14-7PM Conservation Commission	15-7PM Selectmen 7PM Fire Dept.	16	17
18	19-Office Closed/ Holiday (School Vacation Week)	20	21	22-7PM Fire Dept	23	24
25	26	27-Kindergarten Registration	28	29-7PM Selectmen 7PM Fire Dept	30	

May 2004 Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1-9AM 8th Grade Auction
2	3-7PM School Cmte	4-7PM Planning Board	5-7PM Assessors	6-7PM Fire Dept.	7	8
9	10	11	12-Office Closed, Workshop 7PM Conservation Cmsn	13-7PM Selectmen/ Planning Meeting	14	15
16	17	18	19	20-7PM Fire Dept	21	22-11AM-3PM Fire Dept Open House
23	24	25-7PM Public Hearing at School	26	27-7PM Selectmen & Public Hearing	28	29
30	31-Office Closed, Memorial Day					

June 2004 Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1-7PM Planning Board	2-7PM Assessors	3-7PM Fire Dept	4	5
6	7-7PM School Committee	8-10AM to 8PM Voting	9-7PM Conservation Commission	10-7PM Selectmen 7PM Fire Dept	11	12
13	14-6:30 8th Grade Graduation	15	16-Last Day of School (pending no more	17-7PM Fire Dept	18	19
20	21	22	23	24-7PM Selectmen 7PM Fire Dept	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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And Much More!

Town of Lamoine
 606 Douglas Highway
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